

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-11 ACDA-12 /129 W
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R 160725Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 705
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMEMBASSY BONN
CINCUSAFE
USCINCEUR
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USNATO

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USOEC, USEEC

USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, PFOR, NO, TU
SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS TURKEY

1. NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KNUT FRYDENLUND
MADE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO ANKARA FEBRUARY 8-10. AT THE END

OF TALKS HE SIGNED A TRADE, ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT WITH THE GOT, AND ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY THAT TURKISH DEBTS TO NORWAY RESULTING FROM OECD CONSORTIUM CREDITS WOULD BE CANCELLED. ALTHOUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT WILL DEPEND ON SETTLEMENT OF TURKISH DEBT TO NORWAY, THIS VISIT WAS INTENDED AS AN EXPRESSION OF GOOD WILL AND NO HARD BARGAINING TOOK PLACE. FRYDENLUND ALSO DISCUSSED THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND GRECO-TURKISH RELATIONS WITH TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT AND FOREIGN MINISTER OKCUN.

2. ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH GOT ENCOMPASSES PROJECT CREDITS, JOINT INVESTMENTS AND TECHNICAL SERVICES IN THE FOLLOWING FIELDS: FISHING AND FISH EXPORTS, FORESTRY, ELECTRIC GENERATORS, NAVIGATION INSTRUMENTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, FOOD PROCESSING, AND SHIPBUILDING, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION OF OIL-DRILLING PLATFORMS. GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT CREDIT, MAINLY FOR FEASIBILITY STUDIES, WILL AMOUNT TO ONLY 10 TO 15 MILLION KRONE (2 TO 3 MILLION COLLARS). SPECIFIC PROJECTS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY PRIVATE FIRMS. FOR THIS REASON, IN PARTICULAR, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT WILL DEPEND ON SETTLEMENT OF TURKISH COMMERCIAL DEBTS TO NORWAY. A NORWEGIAN EMBASSY OFFICER INDICATED THAT THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT IS, IN FACT, INTENDED AS AN INCENTIVE TO SETTLING THESE DEBTS. ALTHOUGH NORWEGIAN UNDER-SECRETARY OF FINANCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AAMO, WHO ACCOMPANIED FRYDENLUND, INDICATED THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT WOULD NOT DEPEND ON AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOT AND THE IMF, HE POINTED OUT THAT TURKISH RELATIONS WITH THE IMF MIGHT DEVELOP OVER THE MONTHS REQUIRED TO WORK OUT DETAILS OF COOPERATION. A TEAM OF TURKISH EXPERTS WILL GO TO NORWAY WITHIN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS TO DISCUSS SPECIFICS OF THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT.

3. MR. FRYDENLUND ANNOUNCED THAT TURKISH GOVERNMENT DEBTS TO NORWAY AMOUNTING TO 17.5 MILLION KRONE (ABOUT 3.25 MILLION DOLLARS) WOULD BE CANCELLED, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT. THIS DEBT IS OWED AGAINST LOANS NORWAY MADE DURING THE 1960'S AS A MEMBER OF THE OECD CONSORTIUM FOR TURKEY. NORWEGIAN EMBASSY OFFICER DOES NOT EXPECT THAT PARLIAMENT WILL OBJECT TO CANCELLING THE DEBT.

4. AT PRESS CONFERENCE MR. FRYDENLUND ALSO MADE SOME GENERAL AND UPBEAT COMMENTS ON THE CYPRUS SITUATION AND GRECO-TURKISH RELATIONS. MILLIYET QUOTED HIM AS SAYING THAT HE FOUND THE TURKISH ATTITUDE TOWARDS A SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM "POSITIVE", AND THAT HE HOPED THAT THE MEETING BETWEEN ECEVIT AND GREEK PRIME MINISTER

KARAMANLIS WOULD ASSIST THE SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY. WITH RESPECT TO TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, MR. FRYDENLUND REPODEDLY SAID THAT HE HOPED THE ARMS EMBARGO WOULD BE LIFTED SOON, BUT ALSO THAT THE EMBARGO IS A PROBLEM IN AMERICAN INTERNAL POLITICS.

5. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT IN THE FRYDENLUND VISIT TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT HAS ONCE AGAIN BEEN ABLE TO CASH IN ON HIS CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES, ORIGINALLY BASED ON INTER-PARTY TIES WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES THERE. SWEDEN, IT WILL BE RECALLED, GRANTED TURKEY A DEBT MORATORIUM LAST SPRING. NORWEGIAN DEBT CANCELLATION INVOLVES A VERY SMALL AMOUNT OF MONEY, HOWEVER. WHEN VIEWED AGAINST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE FULL EXTENT OF TURKEY'S INDEBTEDNESS, IT IS SIGNIFICANT AND PERHAPS TROUBLESOME, IN SO FAR AS IT ENCOURAGES THE TURKS TO BELIEVE THAT OTHER CREDITORS MAY BEHAVE SIMILARLY. TEXT OF COOPERATION AGREEMENT IS BEING POUCHED TO EUR/SE. SPIERS

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